PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTION

Re:—Reduction of Prices of Nitrogenous Fertilizers to the Level of Prices in America.

DR. R. NAGAN GOUD.—Sir, I beg to move,

"that That this House recommends to Government to reduce the prices of Nitrogenous fertilizers in Mysore to the level of prices of such fertilizers in America."

MR. SPEAKER.—Resolution moved;

"That this House recommends to Government to reduce the prices of Nitrogenous fertilizers in Mysore to the level of prices of such fertilizers in America."

† DR. R. NAGAN GOUD.—Sir, this resolution might look a bit paradoxical. In a country where a man working in a field does not get probably more than Rs. 2 per day, if the prices of fortillzers are higher than those in a country where a man gets Rs. 7 or 8 per hour, it shows that something is wrong somewhere. Still that is a fact as it is today. Ammonium Sulphate today sells at a rate which is equivalent to Rs. 1.25 per lb. whereas the same thing in the United States costs less then 90 paise. The comparison does not stop there. Because of the high price of ammonium sulphate, the Americans have manged to produce nitrogenous fertilizers that are much cheaper. One day I woke up to find a report in a newspaper which very pleasantly surprised me. If the Chair does not mind, I will mention the name of the paper also because it carries such a good information for this country. It is the 'Indian Express' dated 25th October 1966. A special correspondent Mr. Parasuram, mentioned that an American Senator stated as follows —

"Thanks to the increase in the size of plants, the production cost has been brought down from 40 dollars a ton five years ago to 20 dollars or less."

This is something most surprising. 20 dollars is equal to Rs. 150 and that too for a ton of ammonia containing 1,600 lbs. of Nitrogen. That means one lb. of nitrogen is produced there for less than 10 paise.

Today Smt. Basavarajeswari says that in her village nitrogen as ammonium sulphate is sold at Rs. 1.25. compare this with 10 paies or less in the United States. It is surprising that such kind of things should exist, What is to be done for this? Normally price in the United States is about 25 paise. A few days ago I was speaking to Dr. Arekere who has just now travelled in the United States and other parts of the world. He said that nitrogen is sold in the United States just for 50 paise. There are agencies that come to the field and apply fertilizer to the field. Here, we not only pay Rs. 1.25 per ton of nitrogen but we have to carry it to our farms and employ women or boys to

(Dr. R. Nagan Goud)

apply it in small quantities to the field. That itself costs for every acre Rs. 2 or 3. This is amost surprising situation and I am anxious to bring this to the notice of the hon. Members of this House. Sometime ago, the Kuwait Oil Co. offered to sell ammonia at 40 dallars at Bombay harbour. That would bring the price to about 18 paise per lb., but the Government of India somehow decided that we should not purchase such ammonia from outside countries. That is high politics. That is also a policy in which the cultivators have no voice. I won't say anything about it. In November I noticed that the Government of India is doing some re-thinking. There is re-thinking in the Government of India on the controvercial question of allowing import of liquid ammonia.

Sir, if as a cultivator, I am allowed to express my opinion, I would say that we should allow import of ammonia into this country. We should be able to supply to our cultivators as much nitrogen fertilizer as possible, for the reason that our soils are the oldest soils in the world. We have cultivated this soil for five to six thousand years and every year have been depleting the fertilizer content of this soil. I am not blaming the Indian cultivator at all. On the other hand, he is good, he is capable of standing competition with almost any kind of former anywhere. But, why he could not over come the difficulties is that our soils have become depleated. They contain 1,000 or 1,200 nitrogen in the deep 6" soil per acre. In the United States it is 3,000 to 3,500 pounds. I hope, some day, the Government of Mysore and the Government of India will agree with me that we should import as much nitrogen fertilizer as possible at the cheap rates and put it into the hands of the cultivators so that our marshy soils might be enriched. In course of time, I am sure, this will be followed, but the sooner it is followed the better it is. That is with regard to the policy that the Government of India should follow. But, so far as we are concerned, I am not asking the Government of Mysore to subsidise our fertilizers. Here, I would like to say that no cultivator asks for this kind of baksish from Government. We, cultivators, in this country could not have survived if we have lived on subsidies. But, my suggestion is that we should be given a fair deal.

The Government of India, in 1961-62, made a profit of 433.5 million rupees out of the sale of fertilizers. Is there any justification for that? I do not know. We are only in this little Assembly here. They made a profit of Rs. 86 per tonne. I request the Government of India that they should not make any profit on the fertilizer that is sold to us; on the other hand, they should at least give to us at the cost price. There is one point on which I am particular and that is this. Sir, the companies that are engaged in making fertilizers Sindry, Trambay and others, are not producing fertilizers as economically as similar companies in other parts of the world. I mentioned just now that it has produced at a cost of 20 dollars per pound per tonne in the United States. But,

what is the cost of production in this country ? It was the kindness of our Food Minister, who made enquiries for ammonia from some companies, when we at one time said that it is Rs. 1,500, Sri Jatti, as a businessman could bargain and bring it down to Rs. 700 per tonne of ammonia. Now, Rs. 700 per tonne of ammonia, though it is high compared to American prices, still it is cheaper than the price we were paying for ammonium sulphate. At Rs. 600 rate, we will be able to get a pound of nitrogen for 33 paise and at the rate of Rs. 700 per tonne, we will get it for 40 paise. If I use 300 pounds nitrogen for my sugar-cane field, I have to pay Rs. 1.20 instead of 40 paise. Who is to pay the difference ? It is the consumer who eats sugar, jaggery or who eats rice. How can we reduce the cost of production if we have to pay that heavy price ? So, I think, we should find out a way of using cheaper fertilizers; I suggest we should use ammonia. Ammonia is the basis for all nitrogen fertilisers. Production of ammonia by the recent, modern methods is one of the greatest inventions for humanity and it is from that ammonia all the fertilizers are made, ammonium sulphate is made. We put in sulpher into that. We import sulpher from outside and make it ammonium sulphate. Why should we use this ammonium sulphate ? Ammonium sulphate is used simply because it will enable cultivators to carry it in gunny bags, and if it is ammonia we have to take it in cylinders. As a cultivator, I would say that we are capable of carrying this ammonia in cylinders. In this country, we are producing ammonia in various factories, and I have been requesting the Government of Mysore to get some ammonia and some cylinders and put them into our hands so that we can use them as fertilizers for our fields. Ammonia is a fertilizer, which is just as good as any nitrngenous fertilizer, such as Ammonium sulphate, uria, nitrogen, etc. In Mysore, 12 years ago, we made experiments at Hebbal and brought out a bulletin, which I hope the Department will be able to put in the hands of every Member of this House, showing that ammonia could be used as any other efficient fertilizer, of course, with great economy. Sometimes it is said that the cultivator is such an innocent person that he won't be able to use ammonia as such. But, I differ from that view.

12-30 P.M.

We will be able to use this ammonia as will as any other farmer does. If the Americans use tractors, we can use bullock carts. We can allow the ammonia to move into our irrigation fields, *i.e.*, paddy fields and sugar cane fields. What is to be done at present ? The Government of Mysore should carry out large scales experiments, say, in Thungabhadra valley or in Mandya. For this they must get cylinders that are available in Belgola and our Food Minister has agreed to that and he will help to get ammonia at reasonable prices from Trambay or Sindri and put in a place where it is available to cultivators. We can use this to the great benefit of the cultivators.

(DR. R. NAGAN GOUD)

If we do that here in Mysore, the Government of India will also follow the same thing. It must be done all over India. Dr. Arakere who has just now returned from America says the price of Ammonia is very cheep and it is available in plenty and quite a number of people, you can say everybody, is using ammonia. Dr. Arakere suggested that We can nse tractors which can be obtained for hire. I hope this is a very good suggestion and is acceptable. I know the Government of India is very sympathetic in this respect. I want them to take definite measures so that during this coming season alone we could use this.

SRI B. D. JATTI (Minister for Food and Civil Supplies).—What will be the savings in the form of foreign exchange to the State?

DR. R. NAGAN GOUD.—Saving to the country will be about Rs. 240 crores every year. We will be using this for adding fertility to the soil. The Government of India will stand to gain a lot by this. My feeling is that we should add more and more nitrogen to our soil and our soil is capable of holding nitrogen to some extent.

SRI B. D. JATTI.—You can suggest what to do in the matter and how to implement it?

DR. R. NAGAN GOUD.—I want you to purchase the cylinders that are available in Belgola for whatever price. There are good cylinders there. I request you to ask the Trambay people to bring ammonia in their tanks and stock it at Mandya, T. B. Valley, Gangavathi, Belgaum and in other important places from where the cultivator should be able to take the delivery. I will pay the price, get the ammonia filled into the cylinder, put it on my bullock cart, go to my paddy field and open into the water which just irrigate paddy fields without any more trouble. I can just sit on the bund without doing anything in this connection and smoke beedies. Therefore it is one of the easiest methods which could be followed by every one. Something could be done even for our dry lands. You can put the cylinder on your cart take it to the field and push it to the soil and open the cock attached to a tank of the cylinder and let the bullock cart go. We will be able to do this process for three acres in one forenoon. It is easy to do and no fertilizer disappears. Any cultivator could do this very easily. The ammonia that is so let out will be obsorbed by the soil. This is a practical suggestion that I am making. The cultivators are willing to purchase cylinders. Any cultivator with 4 to 5 acres of paddy fields will be able to purchase cylinders. We are using this in our paddy fields. I have tried this in Hospet Taluk. The cultivators in this area are willing to purchase cylinders. Why not put it on the Bullock Cart? That was the suggestion which came from an ordinary cultivator. He substituted bullock cart for a tractor. An American with 300 acres can have a big tractor, and a

big tank. But our cultivator with 3 acres can have a bullock cart with 150 pounds of nitrogen and 150 pounds of ammonia. That is the practical suggestion I am making. Take the lead and show it to the rest of India as to how to use the most economical form of nitregenous fertiliser and save the country from the huge expenditure we are making on sulphur. This will reduce the cost of cultivation and production of our foodcrops.

Sri B. D. JATTI.—One or two clarifications are needed. If the nitrogen is to be applied for a dry land where there is no irrigation facility, how it should be done and at what stage it should be done may be explained.

Dr. R. NAGAN GOWDA.—The way to apply for a dry land is to prepare nice seed bed in which to plant groundnuts for instance. Take the cylinder on bullock cart with 3 or 4 tanks behind it and then push them into the soil 4 or 5 inches deep. Let the bullock cart go along the boundary and come back and cover the entire field. That is the easiest and cheap way of applying nitrogen to dry lands. Ammonia is also not lost in this method. It is absorbed by the soil and remains there. I have got plenty of authorities to show that in places like Texas, North Carolina, Arizona, they are using them. I do not want to take the time of the House. Sir, I will say that the USAID Fertiliser Team has made recommendations in its fertiliser Programme. They say in 1966 January:

> "The team recommends that India plans to produce and use anhydrous ammonia and nitrogen solutions both for direct aplication and for ammoniation of superphosphates. These liquid nitrogen materials are much cheaper to produce than solid nitrogen fertilisers."

We do not want a better authority than that. And Dr. G. P. Kane, Officer on Special duty, Ministry of Industry and Supply, New Delhi, has said :

> "A further step in the direction of reducing the cost of applied nitrogen would be reached by popularisation of the use of nitrogen solutions."

Everybody has been saying that. But for some reason or other, some kind of imaginary fear is in the minds of our big people, and not in the minds of the cultivators. How can they use gas ? They think cultivators are afraid and they would not be able to do it. They have got another fear. Americans use very big tractors with machinery trailing behind. They say how can the poor cultivator get on with these machines ? They think we should have only machines for use of this. That is a false imp ression and I am here to say thatn we can use as well with our bullock carts and simple implements. A applicator can be made with Rs 25-with angle irons and we will be able

(DR. R. NAGAN GOUD)

to apply it as efficiently as the Americans are doing it. In this respect we will not lag behind them at all. Sir, my resolution is you should reduce it to the level of the American values and I have tried to show a method by which it could be done and I want the House to consider this request of mine, and approve of it, if it feels so.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER.—The House stands adjourned to meet on Monday, 11th December 1967 at 1. P.M.

The House adjourned at Fifty minutes past Twelve of the clock to meet at One of the clock on Monday the 11th December 1967.